

Waukesha County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
Executive Committee
Minutes of December 12, 2011

Davis called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Judge Mac Davis, Brad Schimel, Jim Dwyer, Dan Vrakas, Peter Schuler, Sam Benedict.

Also Present: Rebecca Luczaj, Mike Giese, Karen Phillips, Vanessa Allen, Shawn Lundie, Bill Duckwitz, Matt Hiller, Tom LeBel, Sara Carpenter, Jennifer Brumm-Maciejewski and Kristy Gusse.

Approve Minutes from November 14, 2011 Meeting

The minutes of November 14, 2011 were approved by unanimous consent.

Discuss CJCC Program Evaluation Plan

Hiller (Temple University) and LeBel (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) were present to discuss the plan for the evaluation of CJCC programs. Hiller noted there are several evaluation types. He suggested that a participatory action research method be utilized for this evaluation. Participatory action research would benefit the researcher as well as the community partners. The researcher collects information useful to the partners while the partners help to develop the plan by providing necessary information. An implementation evaluation method was utilized for the Alcohol Treatment Court (ATC) evaluation. This form of evaluation assesses the extent to which a program is operating as it was intended, according to the program plan and grant requirements. Hiller reviewed how the ATC program evaluation was conceived and implemented. Building on the successes of ATC, Hiller suggested that perhaps similar things can be done with the Intoxicated Driver Intervention or Day Report Center programs. In previous conversations with Luczaj, Hiller surmised that as part of the evaluation cost-benefit/cost effectiveness analyses would be beneficial in providing the CJCC information useful in determining the overall successfulness of a program.

Hiller suggested that today's discussion focus on the Executive Committee's visions for CJCC programs and establishing direction for program evaluation. Discussion gleaned the following priorities for the program evaluation plan focus:

- Public/community safety – a safe county
- Reduce recidivism rates
- Return on investment – cost benefit, cost savings attributable to the program beyond the cost to the county
- Quality and effectiveness of program services provided
- Show the sustainability of the program and justify continuing the program with limited resources
- Reduce numbers in jail population and jail costs, by slowing the increase of jail days, keeping the jail population in check
- Compare program to others around the country
- Compare program outcomes, e.g., Day Report Center participants versus Huber inmates, program participants versus nonparticipants, etc.
- Rehabilitation – the opportunity for an individual to return to a normal life.
- Determine a way to quantify that programs have made a difference with respect to trends and population and what are the next steps to ensure continued success

Dwyer stated that we all look at this from a different perspective – services, as well as cost benefit. Public safety must fit into the picture. Waukesha County has always been a leader in doing things right and cost effectively. Due to budget restraints presenting a growing challenge, the figures and statistics must show

the return on investment – saved jail days, reduced recidivism, etc. There is not an expectation to shut down half of the jail; however, we are a growing county and as we continue to grow, the services and programs need to adjust relative to the population. Over time there may be a need to update current criteria, rather than falling into a pattern of complacency because our numbers are good.

Schuler noted that it is hard to keep track of what you would be spending in the future by building a strong base of programs and treatment; we need standards to measure against. Everything looks expensive today, but the programs in place today may prevent increased expenses in the future.

Davis stated that program effectiveness in reducing recidivism and improving community safety and a proven level of success are of the utmost importance to judges. In regard to cost benefit, the benefits are much more diffuse based on results beyond the cost to the county. Keeping one person out of prison is of benefit.

Vrakas said the Waukesha County is an anomaly; it is a safe county and the lowest spending county per capita. People expect a safe environment for their families. We need to demonstrate to our constituency that these programs are tough on crime and that it is desirable to treat people. There are a lot of drug and mental health issues that are driving the demand. It is important to know how to differentiate which people are chosen for program participation.

LeBel added that the new language is to be “smart on crime”; to make smart use of limited resources.

Following further discussion, Hiller indicated he would work collaboratively with the committee and others (Luczaj, Giese, WCS staff, etc.) to help with the research questions and determine the desired outcomes for success. He will formulate an interview to do over the phone and then meet again with the committee, perhaps at the February Executive Committee meeting. Hiller will obtain contact information for the interviewees from Luczaj.

Discuss & Consider Drug Abuse Trends Committee Final Report

Luczaj distributed copies of the CJCC Drug Abuse Trends Committee Final Report dated December 2011. The brief report summarized the conclusions and recommendations of the committee. Ultimately, everyone on the committee was satisfied that information was gathered and that a drug treatment court had been established. The committee last met on December 5, 2011, at which time they voted unanimously to terminate the function of the Drug Abuse Trends Committee and refer any ongoing issues to the Criminal Justice Collaboration Council for consideration. However, several committee members expressed an interest in staying connected and informed without formal meetings. Benedict suggested that the CJCC Executive Committee periodically reassess the need to reconvene the Drug Abuse Trends Committee or perhaps hold an educational symposium. Davis requested that Luczaj agendaize this issue for follow-up in one year at the December 2012 Executive Committee meeting.

Davis thanked Schimel for all of his work as the Drug Abuse Trends Committee Chair.

Committee Membership Change: Discuss & Consider Replacing Antwayne Robertson with Pete Slesar on Education & Public Relations Committee

Luczaj stated that Robertson resigned his membership after being chosen to replace Don Maurer as Health and Human Services Deputy Director. Schuler said that Slesar will bring much energy and enthusiasm as a member of the Education & Public Relations Committee.

The appointment of Pete Slesar to the Education & Public Relations Committee was approved by unanimous consent.

Next CJCC Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, January 9, 2012 @ 8:30 AM, Room C179

Next CJCC Meeting

Wednesday, January 25, 2012 @ 8:30 AM, Room C179

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.